

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 PA-02 /017 W

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R 181124Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262

UNCLAS COLOMBO 616

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FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM AMBASSADOR VAN HOLLEN

E.O. 11652:N/A

1. THE SRI LANKA PREMIERE OF THE USIA-PRODUCTED DOCUMENTARY ON THE LIFE OF COL. HENRY S. OLCOTT WAS HELD AT THE AMERICAN CENTER ON FEBRUARY 17 (OLCOTT DAY) FOR A PRESTIGIOUS AUDIENCE OF MORE THAN 100 PROMINANT BUDDHISTS, EDUCATORS, DIPLOMATS, AND OFFICIALS INCLUDING SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AND MAYOR OF COLOMBO.

2. AUDIENCE REACTION TO THE FILM WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE, INDICATING # POPULARITY THE FILM WILL CERTAINLY ENJOY IN SRI LANKA. IT WAS ADMIRER BOTH FOR ITS ARTISTIC QUALITY AND ITS SENSITIVE PORTRAYAL OF AN AMERICAN WHO HAD A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON REVIVAL OF BUDDHISM, EDUCATION, AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

3. THE AGENCY DESERVES GREAT CREDIT IN ASSIGNING A MAN OF WILBUR BLIME'S TALENTS TO PRODUCE THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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FILM, WHICH WILL MAKE A POSITIVE AND LONG

LASTING CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE GOOD RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE US AND SRI LANKA. MANY THANKS.
VAN HOLLEN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COLOMB00616
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760060-0952
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760241/aaaabjfm.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SCUL, CE
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006